

**Board of Selectmen  
Open Meeting of January 5, 2022  
Meeting Held Via Zoom due to COVID-19**

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Members Present: Justin Sullivan, Chris Zorra, Adam Petronio, David Andrade, Michael Healy  
Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime  
Asst. Town Administrator/ Director of Human Resources: Carol-Ann Days

Chairman Sullivan opened the meeting at **6:01 p.m.**

**Board and Committee Openings**

M. Healy read the Board and Committee vacancies into the record.

**Community Speaks**

Joan Webb, 130 Jacob Street, asked for an update regarding the proposed solar panels to be located at the landfill site.

Chair Sullivan stated a joint meeting for discussion with the Energy Committee is scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**A. Consider accepting a grant awarded to the Seekonk Fire Department from Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in the amount of \$4,600.**

C. Zorra made a motion to accept the grant in the amount of \$4,600 to the Seekonk Fire Department; A. Petronio seconded it, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

**B. Vote to continue to endorse Save-a-Pet Society**

C. Zorra made a motion to continue to endorse Save-a-Pet Society; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

**C. Vote to allow the Town Administrator to accept gifts, monetary and tangible, donated by Save-a- Pet Society to the Seekonk Animal Shelter during the year 2022**

C. Zorra made a motion to allow the Town Administrator to accept gifts, donated by Save-a-Pet Society to the Seekonk Animal Shelter during 2022; it was seconded by A. Petronio, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

**D. LICENSE HEARING: Consider the request for a change of manager to John Forbush for Not Your Average Joes, located at 1125 Fall River Avenue**

John Forbush, the acting manager for Not Your Average Joe's was on the Zoom call. He explained they are not requesting any other changes be made at this time.

**C. Zorra made a motion to accept the change of manager to John Forbush for Not Your Average Joes; it was seconded by A. Petronio, and unanimously approved.**

**VOTED: 5-0 all in favor**

**E. Consider awarding the contract for the Senior Center Phase II Project to APC Development Group, Inc.**

S. Cadime explained the project came in overbudget at \$400,00. If the Town chooses to proceed with the project, it would require going back to town meeting to ask for: 1) bond authorization; 2) free cash; or 3) utilizing money available in the building municipal facilities and infrastructure account. At this time there is approximately \$900,000 available in free cash and approximately \$660,000 in the building municipal facilities and infrastructure account.

The Board discussed each option including capital items, continuing to build the municipal facilities and infrastructure account, and the projected cost of snow removal. The project is not a debt exclusion and funding would be taken out of the operating budget. The residents approved the project at town meeting and they would like to see the project move forward.

Michelle Hines, Chairperson for the Senior Center Phase II project said the committee would seek guidance for funding from the Finance Director and Town Administrator at the time of town meeting. The money was appropriated prior to COVID and that has the affected cost and expenses of the project.

D. Andrade asked Ms. Hines and Mr. Cadime to ask the contractor to hold their prices for 90 days.

Mr. Cadime said the committee's next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2022.

**D. Andrade made a motion to award the contract for the Senior Center Phase II Project to APC Development Group, Inc. subject to funding approval at Town Meeting; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**F. Continued Discussion of the proposed Tow Operator Contract**

Attendees included: Tom Clark from Seekonk Auto Body, Jeremy Reis from All Mobile Towing, Ronald Salier from CLT Services, Brian Cooney from A Towing, and Police Chief Dean Isabella

Mr. Clark stated his concerns were the tow schedule and the cost of insurance and rider. He said the Town added another driver and the number of tows has gone down.

Mr. Cadime stated they had 7 responses to tow. Two business were removed since their businesses were not in Seekonk. The town will have 3 drivers in the south end of town and 2 in the north end of town. The insurance and rider are at the recommendation of the town's insurance company to protect the town.

Chief Isabella advised the Board that he, Captain Jardine, Deputy Enos and Director Wunschel met with the tow companies. They considered everyone's input, tried to keep it fair and equitable, and set the schedule.

It was agreed to proceed with the 3-year contract as written.

**G. Consider approval of the Seekonk Communications and Clerical Union Memorandum of Agreement**

C. Zorra made a motion to approve the Seekonk Communications and Clerical Union Memorandum of Agreement; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 4-1(abstention D. Andrade)

**H. Consider accepting the anonymous donations totaling \$590 to the Human Services Gift Account**

C. Zorra made a motion to accept the anonymous donations in the amount of \$590 to the Human Services Gift Account; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

**I. Consider accepting the minutes of November 10, 2021**

C. Zorra made a motion to accept the minutes of November 10, 2021; it was seconded by A. Petronio, and unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

**Community Speaks:** N/A

**OTHER BUSINESS - N/A**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT –**

South End Fire Station Building Committee: The OPM and Chairperson are scheduled to meet in January. The next step will be to go out to bid for architectural services.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

- Bristol County Advisory Board (Michael Healy) -N/A
- Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report (Chris Zorra) N/A
- Veteran Committee (Adam Petronio) – Thanked everyone who participated in the tree lighting ceremony.

**Adjournment to Enter into Executive Session**

**D. Andrade made a motion to adjourn open session meeting to enter into executive session at 7:24 p.m.; it was seconded by A. Petronio, and unanimously approved.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0**

Respectfully submitted,  
Adam Petronio, Clerk

Prepared by:  
Kristen L'Heureux

**Items Distributed at the January 5, 2022 Board of Selectmen Meeting**

- Email from Captain Bourque, Seekonk Fire Department
- Draft memo endorsing Seekonk's Save-A-Pet Society
- Change of Manager request for John Forbush at Not Your Average Joe's
- Tow contract sample for discussion/email from Chief Isabella
- Email from Ashley Cartwright, Assistant Director at Human Services